

***DMME received the following questions about the Request for Proposals for a Geological Survey of the Wind Energy Area off the Virginia Coast. Answers follow the questions and appear in italic typeface.***

1. Point 1.1.4 of the RFP states that the “scope and nature of the survey will be determined after contractor is selected.” If the scope is not clear at this point, how would you like us to bid the work, on a day rate basis with a lump sum mob/demob to the work site? Also, since the reporting costs are a factor of amount of the data collected, how should we bid the reporting? Should it be on a setup fee plus per km cost?

*DMME requests that responders to the RFP examine the two proposed Section 238 Research Lease Applications, the entire RFP, including the RFP statements of Objectives and Major Tasks (Sections 1.1.1 through 1.1.5), the BOEM Final Environmental Assessment for Commercial Wind Lease Issuance and Site Assessment Activities on the Atlantic OCS, Offshore New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland and Virginia (dated January 2012), the BOEM Guidelines for Providing Geological and Geophysical, Hazards, and Archaeological Information Pursuant to 30CFR Part 285, and any other documents referenced in the RFP or the Research Lease Applications and propose how they will meet the objectives and complete the tasks with a total budget not to exceed \$600,000. Responders should depend on their experience and expertise to determine the best use of this budget to obtain data to meet the objectives and complete the major tasks, describe in their response the scope and nature of the work that they will perform and explain in the proposal outline and project management plan how and why that work will best meet the objectives. If an objective or task can be accomplished in more than one way, DMME requests that the responders recommend the approach that they believe would be superior and explain why.*

2. If the statement in our query in point 1 above is erroneous, and the survey requirements are more or less as outlined in the two lease application documents, we would have the following follow up questions:
  - a. Our understanding is that Lease 2 is comprised of 6 blocks, approximately 1km x 1km each. There are a couple of wind turbine location patterns which are proposed, and both have at least some of the turbines located at the edges of the blocks. Usually a 1.8Km x 1.8Km block is required around each installation. This will vary depending on needs and the impact area, but if the turbine location is on the edge of the block, surveying outside of the lease block will likely be required to meet BOEM specs. Do you have any indication of the impact area so we can determine the exact area of the seafloor that needs to be surveyed? The same issue may apply to Lease 1 depending on the impact area.
  - b. Does DMME require an archeological level survey at this stage, or strictly a site hazard survey. This will impact line spacing. Archeological level surveys require a 30m line spacing whereas general surveys require 150m line spacing. Archeological surveys will also require review by an archeologist along with separate reporting.
  - c. For foundation design projects, medium penetration geophysics is required capable of penetrating to at least 10m below foundation depth. The water in the survey areas is fairly shallow which will likely result in multiples in the data if standard single channel analogue methods are used. Our experience is that BOEM does not particularly like these data sets and prefers multi-channel geophysics for the medium penetration subbottom which allows for better processing and reduction of multiples. Please

confirm that we are to propose multi-channel geophysics for the medium penetration subbottom component of the project.

- d. If an archeological survey is required at 30m line spacing, have any discussions been conducted with BOEM or SHPO to determine whether medium penetration geophysics can be run on just the 150m line spacing versus the 30m line spacing. The deeper geophysics are usually of less interest from a cultural resource perspective. This could save money on the project.
- e. What time of year do you require this survey to be conducted – the proposal just mentions contract completion by 9/13. Weather contingency will affect lump sum pricing.

*See Answer to Question 1, above.*

- 3. Does DMME require any geotechnical sampling (borings/cpts) with the proposal?

*See Answer to Question 1, above.*

- 4. We have a couple of vessel options for this project with varying capabilities. The vessel we choose will be greatly dependant on how many people DMME requires on board as observers. Generally speaking, our preference would be to use our larger 110' vessel because it will provide better weather capabilities, more space for operations and allow our personnel (and DMME personnel if needed) to sleep on board so we will not need to transit back and forth from the work site and can maximize our working time. The vessel will also provide safer conditions and allow us to process data on board the vessel to insure it is of the highest quality, however it will be more expensive than a day vessel. Any guidance on DMME requirements will assist in evaluating how best to balance economic and technical factors in our bid.

*DMME requests responders to consider the accommodation of DMME and possibly BOEM observers on survey vessels as a secondary and low priority that should not adversely impact primary survey data collection objectives or costs.*

- 5. If DMME is going to have representatives on board our vessel are we required to bring them back to shore every night or can they sleep on board our vessel offshore?

*See Answer to Question 4, above.*

- 6. Section 4.7 of DMME's RFP refers to Minority and Woman-Owned Business contracting. We can perform all the required work for the project in-house, however, we understand the state's need to promote disadvantaged businesses. Does DMME have specific percentage goals for participation outlined? If we can be more cost efficient by not sub-contracting a DBE, will we be penalized in the proposal review process for not having a certain level of DBE participation?

*Section 4.7 states that "The grantee and sub-grantee shall take all necessary affirmative steps to assure that minority firms, women's business enterprises, service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses, and HUB Zone firms are used when possible." The section then lists affirmative steps to demonstrate compliance with this requirement.*

7. Can you confirm our understanding that the PMP is basically our costing sheet by task and schedule by task? We are not 100% clear on the difference between what is to be contained in the Outline and what is to be contained in the PMP with regards to project approach and description. Please note that if we need to provide a schedule we need to have a better definition of the scope as per the questions above.

*See Answer to Question 1, above. The proposal outline should be in mostly narrative format, but could include photos, graphs, tables or other non-text elements. The PMP should describe tasks and subtasks in a logical numbered sequence, including a schedule or timeline for completing the tasks and subtasks and costs associated with the tasks.*